

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
DAVID H. HUNTOON, JR.

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of Major General David H. Huntoon, Jr., currently serving as the 46th Commandant of the United States Army War College, located in my Congressional District at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Gen. Huntoon became the 46th Commandant of the Army War College in August 2003. His service in this post will come to a close in January, when he will be reassigned to Fort Myers.

The resume of Gen. Huntoon is long and distinguished, fitting for the Commandant of an institution with a long and distinguished history. Gen. Huntoon was commissioned in 1973 from the Military Academy at West Point. He served thirteen years as an infantry officer; he served in the Directorate of Plans at Fort Bragg during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Just Cause; and he has served as a National Security Fellow at the Hoover Institute, as an Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff of the Army, and as the Director of Strategy at the Pentagon.

As the Commandant of the Army War College, Gen. Huntoon has been dedicated to training strategic leaders in the war against terrorism. He speaks of the need to restore the peace shattered on 9/11. He speaks with reverence of both family and the military family, and he has worked to bring the community of Carlisle into the folds of his daily command.

It has been a privilege and an honor to get to know Gen. Huntoon and his family over the past few years. I want to thank him for his dedicated service to the mission of the United States Army War College and to the defense of our great Nation. I wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
GEORGE PARASKEVAIDES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to the honor the life and accomplishments of George Paraskevaides, a humanitarian of unmatched proportions. Mr. Paraskevaides was one of the most renowned Cypriot philanthropists of his day. His life story reads like a classic tale of rags to riches. Born in Athens, Greece in 1916, George Paraskevaides moved with his family back to Cyprus where he excelled in school and ultimately graduated from the Polytechnic Institute in Milan, Italy. After World War II, Mr. Paraskevaides, together with Stelios Ioannou, formed the most preeminent architectural engineering firm in Cyprus, Joannou & Paraskevaides.

George Paraskevaides' keen intellect and unmatched work ethic, allowed Joannou & Paraskevaides to become one of the most prolific firms in the Middle East, Africa, and

Asia. This lucrative company allowed Mr. Paraskevaides to engage in the work he enjoyed most: helping others. George quickly became recognized in Cyprus as a champion of Cypriot issues and sick children.

His death on December 5, 2007 at the age of 91 has left a gaping hole in the hearts of Cypriots the world over. He was the voice of all that is true and good about the island nation. President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, said of the passing of George Paraskevaides. "He was a model of humanity, dignity and kindness. He offered a lot in a selfless way to those who needed help and was a benefactor for Cyprus, serving his country with patriotism. He leaves behind him charity work for which he will be dearly remembered as a man of high moral standards." I could not concur more with this sentiment.

George Paraskevaides is recognized the world over for his good works and philanthropy. He has received innumerable awards including the Medal of Exceptional Contribution, the highest honor of the Republic of Cyprus, Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) by Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Oman III, Class Civil by Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the Rotary Foundation Medal, and the Medal of Merit of the Lions International Club of Nicosia, the St. Paul's Medal by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of North and South America, and the St. Marcus Medal by the Pontifex. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and was also honored with the Holy Cross of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In addition, the works of the George and Thelma Paraskevaides Foundation has been recognized for having formed links with Shriners' Hospital in Springfield, MA, and Children's Heart Fund Hospital in Minneapolis and has provided numerous scholarships for less fortunate Cypriots. Paraskevaides founded the Cyprus Kidney Association, the Surgical and Transplant Foundation and the Cyprus Heart Association.

Madam Speaker, while the list of awards is impressive. I am sure the biggest award that George Paraskevaides won in his life was the love and affection of his wife, Thelma, and his family. He will be missed but never forgotten. May his memory be eternal!

HONORING NGHIA VAN DONG

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nghia Van Dong for his service during the Vietnam War.

Nghia Van Dong was born in Hai Phong, Viet Nam, during the end of the Indochina War. Following the Geneva Conventions which brought the conflict to a resolution, Mr. Dong joined fellow refugees in repatriating to the Republic of South Viet Nam. This trip would prove fruitful, as Mr. Dong met his future wife Hanh on the ship which carried him to Saigon.

At the start of the Viet Nam War, Nghia Van Dong knew that his country needed him. He quickly signed up to help with the war effort, and was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Forces for a period of ten years. When Consul General McNamara asked the Commander of the Special Forces to recommend one of his

best senior Vietnamese employees for the important post of chauffeur and body guard, Mr. Dong was his immediate recommendation.

Mr. Dong served as person chauffeur and body guard to the principal officer of American Consulate, while at the same time supervising all the guard personnel. He filled these roles from October 2, 1970, until the final evacuation on April 29, 1975. He was cited for gallantry on a number of occasions, and also for safe-guarding the life of Consul General Francis T. McNamara.

He has a citation for personally attacking three Viet Cong machine gun positions and destroying each of them with small arms and hand grenades. In a moment of sheer bravery, Nghia Van Dong placed himself between Consul General McNamara and a group of Vietnamese Marines, taking several bullets and saving the life of the Consul General. In total, Mr. Dong was wounded ten times over the course of the war.

At the close of the Viet Nam War, Nghia Van Dong came to the United States. Settling in Fairfax, Virginia, Mr. Dong found employment in Hospital Services, working at both Dewitt and Mount Vernon Hospitals. In 2005, Mr. Dong retired from Mount Vernon Hospital Food Service after 26 years of employment.

Mr. Dong and his spouse Hanh are active in the local Vietnamese Church and have been active for years as they enjoy the fruits of their long marriage—their 15 grandchildren. Although recent illness has kept him from many activities, Mr. Dong has always enjoyed fishing, drinking coffee, and playing the lottery. He has also been active in local veterans' groups.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Nghia Van Dong for his service during the Viet Nam War, and his outstanding legacy of public service here in Northern Virginia. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Dong.

HONORING BONNIE PALECEK

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a colleague and dear friend of mine as she retires as Executive Director of the Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault in my State of North Dakota. I have had the privilege of knowing Bonnie Palecek for over 25 years and have seen firsthand the leadership and devoted service she has provided in protecting victims of violence.

Bonnie Palecek has been with the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault for nearly 30 years. Bonnie established the Council on Abused Women's Services in 1980, and has led this network to now connect over 20 domestic violence prevention and intervention programs across the State. Under her leadership, this coalition is the voice for thousands of women and children affected by violence. Bonnie has tirelessly advocated for domestic violence victims and their families and has been the driving force behind passing countless pieces of legislation in North Dakota to protect victims of domestic abuse. After 30 great years, she will be difficult to replace.